

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 12

OCTOBER 1960



Rev. David C. Ensign Speaks At Fall Meetings

The Reverend David Chauncey Ensign was the featured speaker at the annual fall meetings of the conferences and associations of the Southeast Convention.

A graduate of Manchester College (B. A. 1939), Bethany Biblical Seminary (B. D. 1943), and Boston University (Ph. O. 1955), Dr. Ensign is presently on the faculty of the Near East School of Theology, Beirut.

The Near East School of Theology is supported jointly by the Congregational Christian American Board, the Presbyterian USA Board, the Armenian Evangelical Union, and the Arab Evangelical Synod. Dr. Ensign has served the institution for the past five years.

Mrs. Ensign is the former Margaret Innis Lowe of Cheshire, England. Dr. and Mrs. Ensign have three young children.

Convention Board of Directors Adopts Important Resolutions

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, meeting at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., on Tuesday, September 13, took several important actions.

After receiving the resignation of the Reverend Miss Annie R. Campbell as Minister of Christian Education, the members of the Board voted the following resolution.

Miss Annie R. Campbell

The members of the Board of Directors, meeting on September 13, 1960, wish to express to Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Minister of Christian Education in the Southeast Convention for five years, their sincere appreciation for all the work she has done so willingly and admirably.

Miss Campbell has promoted diligently a program of Christian Education in our churches which is educationally sound, spiritually challenging, and adjusted to the needs of individual groups. She has advised the Pilgrim Fellowship wisely and encouraged the youth on every hand toward a fully committed Christian life. She has been a valuable guide and counselor in the work of the Women's Fellowship.

Miss Campbell has shown courage in the many miles traveled alone; steadfastness in following through with difficult assignments and self-sacrifice in her loyalty to the Staff, Board of Directors, and churches of the Southeast Convention.

We wish her happiness and a keen sense of Christian fulfillment in her position as pastor of the Robbins, Tennessee Parish.

The following committee was appointed to undertake the task of securing a new Director of Christian Education: Mrs. Edward L. Askren, Atlanta, Chairman, Mrs. W. Raymond

Berry (Chm. Christian Education Com.) LaGrange, Mr. W. J. Strickland (Treas. of S. E. Conv.,) Decatur, Dr. Walter A. Graham (Pres. Southern Union College), Rev. W. Raymond Berry (Moderator of the Convention), and Superintendent J. H. Lightbourne Jr.

After discussion on the Constitution for the United Church which has been submitted to the churches for their vote, the following resolution was voted.

UNITED CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches hereby records its approval of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. It further urges the churches of the Southeast Convention to vote on this historic document.

Approximately 20 persons attended the meeting of the board at which the various committees and organizations of the convention reported on their activities.

The board is made up of the officers of the convention, three members elected by the convention, the chairmen of the convention committees, the presidents of the women's, men's, and youth's groups, the moderators and a representative of each of the conferences and associations, and the President of Southern Union College.

The Moderator appointed the following Budget Committee to report to the January meeting of the Board.

Mr. W. J. Strickland, Chairman, Rev. J. Kermit Harris, Mr. H. P. Baird, Mr. Allan G. Saunders, and Rev. Arnold Slater.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on January 17, 1961.

Statement Against Bigotry Adopted By Church Group

The following statement was adopted by the Council of Christian Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in January of this year. The Council does not support a particular candidate for the office of president.

"The Council for Christian Social Action unequivocally states its conviction that no citizen should be denied nomination by a political party or election to the office of President on grounds of race, religion, or ethnic origin.

To accept an unwritten law, or to assume that no Roman Catholic should be President of the United States would amount to a denial of fundamental American principles and would infringe liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.

This does not mean that citizens may not ask questions about a Presidential candidate's character, beliefs, and affiliations, including his religious beliefs and affiliations. Since the Roman Catholic Church is known to contain at least two opposing views of the preferred relationship between church and state and of the basis for religious liberty, it would be important to know the views of a Roman Catholic candidate on those issues. Religious affiliation must not automatically qualify or disqualify a citizen for any political office.

Among the qualifications for the Presidency that voters should hold to be decisive, are these: unusual gifts of insight; integrity; political experience and acumen; broad perspectives on history and political processes; a fundamental generosity of mind and heart; the ability to persuade and lead and to make firm decisions. Attachment to fundamental American principles and to the best interests of the American society should be judged by the candidate's whole career and by his own public avowals.

Once in the Presidency, the crucial question is not what influences are brought to bear upon him, but what response the President makes to such influences. The probable response can be judged in advance only by a study of the candidate's record and his publicly avowed positions on important issues. The interests of all religious and non-religious groups must be taken into account by the President, whatever

Former Opponent Endorses United Church Of Christ

THE CONGREGATIONAL RECORD of the Congregational Christian Conference of Nebraska recently published an article reporting the action of the distinguished Minister Emeritus of Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, the Rev. Dr. Raymond A. McConnell.

Dr. McConnell had this to say:

"For twelve years, in good conscience and with no regrets for my position, I opposed the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. First Plymouth (Church) by a heavy majority opposed the merger, and in various votes has re-affirmed that opposition. I now propose that that opposition be discontinued and that we join in good-will with the Merger on the basis of the Revised Draft of the Proposed Constitution just completed.

"My reasons are that at long last, so far as I am concerned, all the basic grounds for opposition have been removed by the Commission to Prepare a Constitution for the United Church of Christ. In a new spirit of reconciliation the 'stoutly maintained positions' of opposition have been met satisfactorily.

"Thus, with the acceptance of this Revised Constitution, my grounds for opposing the Merger have been removed. Our church could now accept and, I believe, unite in good will in the acceptance. The long, conscientious and honorable struggle by opposition groups, ministers and laymen, and by many devoted, sincere and wise Christian leaders within the pro-merger group, to maintain the basic freedoms, which made our Congregational Churches great in American civil and religious history, has been crowned with victory."

his personal religious affiliation. The important question is the fairness of his appraisal and his treatment of all influences and groups.

The Council for Christian Social Action calls upon the members of the churches to participate in the electoral process as an important contribution to democracy and the public welfare. It urges church members to judge parties, issues, and candidates on the basis of intrinsic merits, keeping in mind the many-sided demands and needs of our pluralistic society."

PEOPLE

REV. DR. SAMUEL W. KECK

The main street of Deadwood, South Dakota, was lined with saloons when the young Rev. Samuel W. Keck, fresh from Chicago Theological Seminary, walked up the narrow gulch to take over his first pastoral assignment.

The year was 1916. The famous Deadwood Stage had been replaced by the railroad, but this was still a wide-open frontier town.

On September 15, 1960, Dr. Keck retired from his post as Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Relief Division of the Board of Home Missions. In this capacity his name became familiar to retired ministers, their wives, and their widows all over the country. They came to know him as a concerned and understanding friend.

In the years between 1916 and 1952, when he joined the BHM staff, Dr. Keck served in the pastorate and as superintendent of the South Dakota Conference of Congregational Churches.

Dr. and Mrs. Keck will make their home in Clairmont, California.

* * * *

MRS. MAY LYTTLE FLICKINGER

The renowned world theologian, Leon Bloy, once said, "There is only one sorrow — not to be a saint."

If this be true, then Mrs. May Lyttle Flickinger, better known to hundreds of Southern Union College students and associates as "Aunt May", must know real joy! In a very real sense, this dynamic woman — soon to celebrate her 80th birthday — is the "patron saint" of The Southern Union College.

Mrs. Flickinger became interested in Southern Union College in 1935. In 1948 she became a member of the Board of Trustees. She served as a trustee until 1959 when she insisted that "some younger woman" should take her spot. This did not curb her activities, however, and today she is a "trustee emeritus" whose activity puts some of the active trustees to shame.

In 1958 she was awarded a citation for meritorious service by her fellow board members in recognition of her exceptional leadership and service.

Just recently she spent two weeks on the campus, engaged in a variety of activities. The flagpole at Southern Union was presented to the college by Mrs. Flickinger's son and daughter in honor of her services.

Renewal And Service Call To The Church

The rural communities of America are the scene of vast and far-reaching changes. Technological advances in agriculture, transportation and communication, shifts in economic and occupational patterns, and transition in social institutions have been combined to make rural America truly an arena of rapid social change.

The recent Town and Country Convocation of the United Church of Christ at Oberlin, Ohio, addressing itself to the theme "Christian Witness in Rural Revolution," has aroused an active concern that the church in town and country shall speak relevantly and persuasively to such a time as this.

Confronted by such an opportunity the joint town and country committees of the United Church of Christ have adopted a two-pronged emphasis for the quadrennium, 1960-1963:

The Renewal of the Church In Town and Country

This phase of the emphasis speaks to a deeply-felt need in the interior life of the church as the fellowship of the people of God. The goals of fellowship, worship, service and witness toward which we strive, as well as the fine programs and methods which we advocate wait for their achievement upon a fundamental experience of "renewal" within the churches and in the hearts of Christian men and women.

Renewal involves a re-thinking of the "meaning of the church" on the part of both clergy and laity. Out of such an inner experience of renewal may be expected, through the power of God's holy spirit released in the churches, new vitality and effectiveness in all the ministries of the church.

The Town and Country Church Understanding and Serving Its Community

Spiritual renewal must not, indeed cannot, remain a private or an internal experience in the life of the church. The spiritually alive church is a witnessing and serving church. Because its roots are deep in the life of prayer and discipline, its fruits are abundant and varied in the common life. The renewed church is a radiant church.

The second phase of our emphasis addresses itself to the responsibility of the church in town and country to study and understand its community, to work for an ecumenical Christian Witness to the whole life of the community, and to minister courageously and

A LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE



intelligently to the needs of the community.

In announcing the two-fold emphasis, we call upon all the churches of our united fellowship which are located in town and country communities to join with national, conference and synod leadership in a commitment of ourselves to pray, to study and to act as churches which are wholly yielded instruments of God's redemptive will as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2).

Signed for the joint Town and Country committees:

Mrs. Fred Berry, Chairman,
Committee on Town & Country
Church, E & R

Dr. Victor Obenhaus, Acting Chm.,
Committee on the Mission of the
Church in Town and Country, C. C.

Has your church voted on the United Church Constitution? Every church in the Southeast Convention should vote. Vote and send your report form to:

The United Church of Christ
297 Park Ave. South
New York 10, N. Y.

CC Women Support Friendly Service

The women of our Congregational Christian Churches have reported a total of \$667,131.29 given in cash and material goods through Friendly Service over a twelve-month period ending June, 1960.

The value of their giving to homeland institutions, including cash gifts and postage, was \$103,766.13; to American Board Projects, \$50,539.31; and to the Congregational Christian Service Committee, \$77,438.15. In addition, \$42,304.58 was given to the Migrant Ministry, and gifts of good used clothing amounted to \$387,052.95 (valued at \$1.00 per pound). Friendship Boxes valued at \$15,030.17 were also reported.

According to Miss Marjory A. Martin, Friendly Service Secretary, the total giving was about \$20,000.00 more than last year. This is a conservative figure, since many local groups had not sent in reports of their giving.

No statistics are available for the Friendly Service work done by children and young people, but their gifts are also quite substantial.

Has your church accepted its Christian Higher Education Fund Campaign Goal yet? Act now.

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Superintendent's Corner

Were I to take pen in hand to write about the "unforgettable persons" it has been my happy circumstance to know, one face that surely would flash upon the screen of my memory would belong to the Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell.

It isn't the same in the convention office without "Miss Annie". We miss her cheerful whistling . . . the sounds of her scrounging through the piles of stuff stacked haphazardly on her desk . . . her usual merry greeting . . . her latest little quip or joke . . . her Christian spirit.

It isn't the same throughout the convention without "Miss Annie" going hither and yon to lend a hand with the young people . . . the Sunday School . . . the women's groups. Everywhere I go there is evidence she has been there and the people are glad she came.

Surely if God assigns angels to watch over certain people, He long ago sent one to watch over "Miss Annie" as she went the many miles and visited the many places.

"Miss Annie", you may have left this job, but you haven't left our hearts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

October 1-15 — Fall Association and Conference Meetings
October 16 — First Church, East Tallahassee, Alabama
October 18 — Committee to Secure Christian Education Director for Convention
October 23 — Southern Union College Dedication Pilgrim Hall Addition
October 27 — Georgia Council of Churches Board of Directors
November 2 — Demorest Federated

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION

SUGGESTED GOALS — 1961

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|-----------|
| Central Alabama Association | | | |
| E. Tallassee Cong. Christian | 575.00 | Trinity, Caddo First Cong. | 108.00 |
| Eclectic, Watson's Chapel | 48.00 | Total | 2,172.00 |
| Mountain Creek, Union | 90.00 | South Ala.-N. W. Fla. Association | |
| Seman, Balm of Gilead | 48.00 | Andalusia, Antioch | 240.00 |
| Seman, Community | 48.00 | Andalusia, Coldwater | 72.00 |
| Tallassee, Mt. Olive | 150.00 | Andalusia, First | 240.00 |
| Thorsby, United | 60.00 | Andalusia, New Home | 24.00 |
| Total | 1,019.00 | Brantley, Indian Creek Com. | 60.00 |
| | | Brantley, Liberty | 72.00 |
| East Alabama Association | | Clio, New Hope | 168.00 |
| Alexander City, Antioch | 48.00 | Headland, Blackwood | 480.00 |
| Alexander City, Hunt | 156.00 | Midland City, Christian Hill | 48.00 |
| Ashland, Bethel | 104.00 | Baker, Good Hope | 276.00 |
| Cragford, Mt. Carmel | 12.00 | Baker, Pyron's Chapel | 120.00 |
| Dadeville, Elder | 150.00 | Bonifay, New Effort | 276.00 |
| Daviston, McGuire's Chapel | 24.00 | Crestview, Dorcas | 120.00 |
| Delta, Wesley's Chapel | 12.00 | Floral, Cluster Springs | 36.00 |
| Five Points, State Line | 108.00 | Total | 2,232.00 |
| Goodwater, Oak Hill | 12.00 | Ga.-S. C. Conference | |
| LaFayette, Pleasant Grove | 180.00 | Ambrose, Christian | 180.00 |
| LaGrange (Ga.), Hillside | 204.00 | Atlanta, Center | 300.00 |
| Lanett, Cong. Christian | 2,300.00 | Atlanta, Central | 4,400.00 |
| Lanett, Huguley | 204.00 | Barnesville, Fredonia | 400.00 |
| Langdale, Cong. Christian | 12.00 | Baxley, Friendship | 276.00 |
| Lineville, Dingler's Chapel | 2,300.00 | Bowman, Liberty | 48.00 |
| Lineville, New Harmony | 12.00 | Braselton, Macedonia | 48.00 |
| Lineville, Shady Grove | 25.00 | Bristol, Antioch | 48.00 |
| Lineville, Spring Hill | 12.00 | Buford, Duncan's Creek | 132.00 |
| Phenix City, Russell Woods | 12.00 | Columbus, First | 372.00 |
| Phenix City, United | 216.00 | Columbus, United | 240.00 |
| Pisgah | 520.00 | Crest, Hebron | 130.00 |
| Roanoke, Antioch | 24.00 | Demorest, Federated | 400.00 |
| Roanoke, Bethany | 420.00 | Doerun, New Light | 36.00 |
| Roanoke, First | 60.00 | Doerun, Poplar Arbor | 36.00 |
| Roanoke, Forest Home | 540.00 | Douglas, First | 120.00 |
| Roanoke, Lowell | 120.00 | Enigma, Christian | 60.00 |
| Roanoke, Mt. Zion | 360.00 | Gaillard, Pleasant Hill | 36.00 |
| Roanoke, New Hope | 72.00 | Hampton, County Line | 120.00 |
| Roanoke, Rock Springs | 120.00 | LaGrange, United | 1,375.00 |
| Roanoke, Rock Stand | 60.00 | Meansville, First | 24.00 |
| Shawmut, Todd | 204.00 | Oxford, Sardis | 120.00 |
| Wadley, Christian | 168.00 | Pearson, Union Hill | 276.00 |
| Wadley, Beulah | 520.00 | Pine Mountain, Oak Grove | 600.00 |
| Wadley, Corinth | 120.00 | Richland, First | 120.00 |
| Wedowee, Caver's Grove | 48.00 | Richland, Providence Chapel | 12.00 |
| Wedowee, Noon Day | 120.00 | Tifton, First | 24.00 |
| West Point (Ga.), Bethel | 204.00 | Tifton, Vanceville | 176.00 |
| Total | 9,891.00 | Waycross, Williams' Chapel | 204.00 |
| North Alabama Association | | Woodbury, Jones' Chapel | 172.00 |
| Arley, Robertson's Chapel | 48.00 | Charleston (S. C.), Circular | 1,320.00 |
| Birmingham, Pilgrim | 1,200.00 | Total | 11,805.00 |
| Garden City | 276.00 | Ky. - Tenn. Conference | |
| Hackleburg, Fairview | 108.00 | Corbin, Pilgrim | 120.00 |
| Haleyville, Union Grove | 108.00 | Evarts, First | 560.00 |
| Houston, Liberty Hill | 36.00 | Stearns, Community | 144.00 |
| Moulton, Jones Chapel | 24.00 | Chattanooga, Pilgrim | 3,600.00 |
| Steele, Mt. Lebanon | 48.00 | Crossville, First | 528.00 |
| Steppeville, Mt. Grove | 180.00 | Daisy, First | 320.00 |
| Town Creek, Liberty | 36.00 | Deer Lodge | 78.00 |
| | | Glenmary | 78.00 |
| | | Knoxville, First | 3,300.00 |
| | | Nashville, Brookmeade United | 720.00 |

Church
November 6 — Russell Woods Church,
Phenix City, Alabama

(Cont. on Page 5)

People... Churches... Events...

North Alabama YP Choose New Name

Sixty young people representing six churches in North Alabama held their Fall Rally in the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18, 1960.

The newly elected officers to serve for a term of one year were duly installed by Rev. George C. Hewson of St. John's United Church, Birmingham. They are Chip Saunders, president (Birmingham Pilgrim); Kevin Butler, vice-president (St. John's, Cullman); Bill Heatherly, secretary-treasurer (St. John's, Cullman); Faith Commission, David Hewson (St. John's, Birmingham); Action, Cathy Seadler (Pilgrim Church, Birmingham); Fellowship, Ruth Clark (Mt. Grove, Steppeville).

The group chose a new name for the organization, to be used tentatively but for an indefinite period of time. The name chosen, "United Christian Youth of North Alabama."

Macedonia CC Church Sets Building Program

Under the leadership of the pastor, the Rev. H. C. Eddleman, Macedonia Congregational Church of the North Georgia Association has made marked progress during the past four years. A revival meeting was held the week of August 28. The preacher was the Rev. Charles H. Drake Jr., a member of Macedonia Church who now lives in Watertown, Mass., where he is the pastor of a church and also is studying at Harvard University for his Doctorate in Human Orientation. During the revival four members were added to the Macedonia Church.

Plans have been made for building Sunday School rooms and this building program was enthusiastically launched. Timber has been cut, and pledges made to carry the program through.

Mrs. Ruby L. Mehaffey
Clerk and Treasurer

(Cont. from Page 4)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Pleasant Hill, Community | 825.00 |
| Robbins, Barton Chapel | 78.00 |
| Soddy, First | 245.00 |
| Total | 10,596.00 |
| Ala. and N. W. Fla. Assoc. | \$15,314.00 |
| Ga.-S. C. Conference | 11,805.00 |
| Ky.-Tenn. Conference | 10,596.00 |
| | \$37,715.00 |

CHURCH SIGN PROJECT



"A city that is on a hill cannot be hid" — but a Congregational Christian Church without a sign can! The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association has made signs for each of its churches so that they will not stay hidden. In the picture above, David and Bill Brackin are shown hanging the sign for the Blackwoods Church.

HERE AND THERE

SENUICENTENNIAL ANNUAL MEETING

On October 11, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions will convene in annual meeting where the first meeting of Commissioners took place 150 years ago. First Congregational Church, Farmington, Conn., will be the host at the first of three meetings. These will provide the major public occasion for observance of the anniversary. The second meeting will be a service of worship at night in the West Hartford Church. In the morning business sessions will be held.

* * * *

LAYMEN'S SUNDAY

Sunday, October 16, will be observed as Laymen's Sunday in our Congregational Christian Churches. Local churches are urged to encourage their laymen to plan and participate in the Sunday morning service.

* * * *

WORK DAY FOR CHRIST

Many of the youth groups in our churches will observe "Work Day for

Christ" on Saturday, October 15. The money the young people earn from their work on this day will go for mission projects.

* * * *

A CORRECTION

In the September SOUTHEAST NEWS the item should have read:

"Mr. Herman Cook, a deacon in the Lanett Church, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Education for the community."

* * * *

Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn has resigned as minister of the Antioch CC Church, Andalusia, Alabama, to become minister of the Russell Wood CC Church, Phenix City, Alabama, effective November 1.

* * * *

The Rev. and Mrs. George C. Hewson and son of St. John's United Church, Birmingham, were guests at the "Family Night" supper at Pilgrim Church on Sept. 7. Mr. Hewson dressed in his Japanese clothing and told of his experience in Japan.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
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